

Care Group Notes for January 15, 2012

Parable: Cost of Discipleship - Luke 14:25-35

1) What is the theme of this parable?

- Being willing to put everything behind you for following Christ.

2) What does Jesus say in verse 26 about being a disciple? What does this mean?

- Depending on your translation, he says that to be one of his disciples, we should "hate" our loved ones. What this means or translates to is, by comparison to our love and willingness to follow Him, everyone else would be almost as if we hate them. We are not being told to hate our family, but that our love and devotion to Him must be that much greater.

3) What does it mean to carry your own cross? How do we do this?

- It means that it is our own responsibility to die to our own desires and follow the desires of Christ. We must be willing to face the challenges and persecution that comes with it. We do this by daily laying our life before God and reminding ourselves we are here for His purposes, not our own. We must surrender our selfish, worldly desires and do whatever Jesus asks of us at whatever cost.

4) The New Living Translation uses the term "count the cost." What do you think of when you hear that?

- The scriptures used the examples of starting a building or a king going to war. For us, we must understand that we are giving up our selfish desires and being willing to do whatever we are asked of by God. This may be as simple as helping someone in an easy situation to making major sacrifices that we may not normally choose to do on our own.

5) What is salt used for? Without those uses, would it have any value? How does this compare to us as Christians?

- Salt is used for seasoning and preservation. Without its saltiness it would be worth nothing. A Christian who is only a Christian in name and not action is the same thing. Worthless.